

UNCLASSIFIED 89247F OUTGOING
UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY Part II TELEGRAM

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TO RUENPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 1738
INFO RUENIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1748
BT
UNCLAS USIA 68481

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EO 12356 N/A

SUBJECT: FY 88 IV GROUP "U.S. POLITICAL PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS"

A BRIEF EVALUATION SESSION WAS HELD WITH THIS GROUP ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, DURING THEIR RETURN VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MOST OF THEIR TIME DURING THE RETURN VISIT WAS SPENT ON CAPITOL HILL IN MEETINGS ARRANGED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY'S STAFF, A SEPARATE MEETING WITH SENATOR BILL BRADLEY AND A MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THE GROUP WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR VISIT. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOT TIME TO DISCUSS EACH STOP IN DETAIL SOME OF THEIR COMMENTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

THE NEBRASKA VISIT WAS A HIGHLIGHT FOR THEM. THEY WERE MADE HONORARY CITIZENS OF THE STATE. THEY MET SOME 42 AFGHAN STUDENTS. THE STUDENTS, THEY SAID, WERE SOMEWHAT HOMESICK AND SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY. THEY MENTIONED THAT THREE COLLEGES IN AFGHANISTAN HAD BEEN LINKED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. THEY VISITED A FARM AND, THE ESCORTS NOTED, THEY WERE VISIBLY EXCITED TO BE IN THE RURAL ATMOSPHERE. THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A GREATER PERIOD OF TIME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS OPPOSED TO CITIES.

IN SACRAMENTO THE STATE SENATE ADOPTED A PROCLAMATION IN THEIR HONOR WHICH WAS HANDSOMELY FRAMED AND PRESENTED TO THEM.

THEY LOVED SAN FRANCISCO AND WHILE THERE HAD AN EVENING AT THE HOME OF ESCORT TOM PINCH IN BERKELEY TO WHICH MANY LOCAL AFGHANS WERE INVITED AND THE GROUP, IN TURN, WAS INVITED TO THE HOMES OF LOCAL AFGHANS FOR MEALS AND TALK.

THEY DID NOT PARTICULARLY LIKE NEW YORK BUT SAID IT WAS A NECESSARY STOP BECAUSE OF FREEDOM HOUSE AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

THEY SAID ALL OF THEIR MEETINGS WERE USEFUL AND IMPORTANT. THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH AMERICA WHERE THEY SAID THE PEOPLE WERE PROVIDED WITH EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED BUT ALSO, UNLIKE THE SOVIET UNION, ENJOYED FREEDOM. THEY NOTED THAT PEOPLE OBEYED AND RESPECTED LAWS. THEY SAID THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S. IS AT ONCE VERY SIMPLE AND VERY COMPLEX AND HOPED THAT IN A PEACEFUL AFGHANISTAN IT WOULD ALSO BE BALLOTS NOT BULLETS THAT WOULD RULE THE LAND.

THEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION TOWARD THEIR ESCORTS. MR. AHIN HAD A SHORT HOSPITAL STAY IN NEBRASKA FOR TESTS AND EXPRESSED HIS ESTEEM FOR THE CARE HE WAS GIVEN.

THE VISITORS WERE HIGHLY GRATIFIED BY THE OVERWHELMINGLY WARM AND POSITIVE RESPONSE THEY RECEIVED FROM AMERICANS EVERYWHERE THEY WENT AND THE GREAT INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE VISITORS THEMSELVES WERE VERY IMPRESSIVE. WITHOUT DOUBT THIS WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT. (E/VGM)

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